

Message Text

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY PANAMA IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 023601

FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROGERS

FOLLOWING REPEAT GUATEMALA 0593 ACTIONSECSTATE INFO LONDON

BELIZE MEXICO USUN 29 JAN 76

QUOTE

C O N F I D E N T I A L 0593

ARA FOR AMBASSADOR MELOY

E.O. 11652 GDS

TAGS: PBOR, GT, UK, BH

SUBJ: BELIZE DISPUTE: UK, GUATEMALA AGREE ON TALKS, DISAGREE ON
FRAMEWORK

1. SANCHEZ, DIRECTOR BELIZE AFFAIRS FONOFF, TOLD EMBASSY
JANUARY 29 THERE WOULD BE SIMULTANEOUS ANNOUNCEMENT IN LONDON
AND GUATEMALA JANUARY 30 THAT TWO GOVERNMENTS HAD AGREED TO
RESUME NEGOTIATIONS IN NEW ORLEANS FEBRUARY 9 AND THAT
DELEGATIONS WOULD BE HEADED BY FONMIN MOLINA AND UNDER
SECRETARY OF STATE ROWLANDS.

2. IN OTHER RESPECTS ANNOUNCEMENTS WILL DIFFER, UK AND GOG
HAVING BEEN UNABLE TO AGREE ON IDENTICAL TEXTS. GOG
RECEIVED FROM BRITISH CONSUL JANUARY 27 TEXT WHICH HMG
PROPOSED FOR RELEASE 48 HOURS LATER. BRITISH ANNOUNCEMENT
REFERS TO TALKS BEING IN ACCORD WITH UNGA RESOLUTION. THIS
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WAS FIRST INKLING GUATEMALANS HAD OF ANY SUCH BRITISH

INTENTION. (WE HAVE NOT RPT NOT SEEN UK TEXT AND WOULD APPRECIATE RECEIVING FROM LONDON WHEN RELEASED.) GOG TOLD UK THIS WAS UNACCEPTABLE AND PROPOSED COUNTERDRAFT WHICH SIMPLY ANNOUNCED TALKS BEING RESUMED WITHOUT ATTEMPTING TO DESCRIBE THEIR NATURE, ORIGIN OR PURPOSE. THIS WAS UNACCEPTABLE TO HMG, AND AFTER SEVERAL EXCHANGES OF CABLES TWO SIMPLY AGREED TO DISAGREE AND ISSUE SEPARATE ANNOUNCEMENTS. GUATEMALAN ANNOUNCEMENT WILL POINT OUT IT WAS AGREED IN NOVEMBER THAT TALKS WOULD BE UNRESTRICTED IN SCOPE AND STATE THAT UN RESOLUTION HAS NO VALIDITY FOR GOG.

3. SANCHEZ SAID GOG REGRETTED THIS DEVELOPMENT AND HOPED IT WOULD NOT AFFECT PROPITIOUS ATMOSPHERE FOR TALKS WHICH IT HAD APPEARED ROWLANDS AND MOLINA HAD ESTABLISHED IN NOVEMBER. REMAINDER OF GUATEMALAN DELEGATION NOT RPT NOT YET CHOSEN BUY MAY BE TOMORROW.

4. SANCHEZ SAID BRITISH HAD ASSURED GOG THAT ONCE ANNOUNCEMENT OF TALKS MADE THEY WOULD WITHDRAW REINFORCEMENTS FROM BELIZE. EMBOFF ASKED IF THAT MEANT ALL REINFORCEMENTS, AND SANCHEZ SAID BRITISH HAD SIMPLY SAID "REINFORCEMENTS." HE NOTED THAT ONLY FOUR HARRIER AIRCRAFT LEFT IN BELIZE AND HE ASSUMED THESE WOULD BE WITHDRAWN, TOGETHER WITH AT LEAST SOME OF TROOPS.

5. GUATEMALAN PRESS JANUARY 29 REPORTED THAT MINISTER

OF GOVERNMENT VASSAUX HAD AUTHORIZED A MASSIVE PUBLIC DEMONSTRATION IN THE DOWNTOWN AREA IN FAVOR OF THE RECUPERATION OF BELIZE AT 3 PM FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 6. DEMONSTRATION IS BEING ORGANIZED BY COMMITTEE OF LITTLE-KNOWN PRIVATE CITIZENS HEADED BY LAWYER ENRIQUE SANTA CRUZ. IT WAS ORIGINALLY SCHEDULED FOR JANUARY 23 BUT GOG DENIED PERMISSION ON GROUNDS DATES WAS "INCONVENIENT." SANCHEZ SAID HE KNEW FONMIN WAS OPPOSED TO ALLOWING DEMONSTRATION BUT ASSUMED HE HAD BEEN OVERRULED. HE THOUGHT PRESSURES ON GOVERNMENT (INCLUDING FROM RIGHT-WING MLN PARTY) WERE SIMPLY TOO GREAT TO BE RESISTED ANY LONGER. EMBOFF COMMENTED THAT HAVING AGREED

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TO PERMIT DEMONSTRATION, GOG COULD NOT PERMIT IT TO FAIL, AND SANCHEZ AGREED. PRESS REPORTS THAT ALL PUBLIC EMPLOYEES WILL BE GIVEN AFTERNOON OFF FEBRUARY 6 AND PRIVATE EMPLOYERS WILL BE ASKED TO DO LIKEWISE.

ANDREWS
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